

Embassy of the Unwed States of America P.O. Box 199, Mbabane, Swaziland

9 September 1986 MMB-6007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau -- August 1986

I. GENERAL

A. In the month of August, the Bureau received approval to begin a search for a new house to be occupied by our new editor, who is filling a new slot. Working through a local real estate agency, the Bureau Chief found a 12-year-old house for sale on the same street as the Deputy Chief's house, and within walking distance of the Bureau Chief's house. Working frantically to beat the end of the fiscal year and obligate FY-86 funds for the house, by the end of the month the Bureau had received permission to gather the necessary documents to send to FBO, which must approve the purchase. By 5 September, all documents had been collected and sent via DHL courier to FBO. The Bureau is now awaiting approval from FBO, at which time the Bureau Chief and Embassy GSO officer will negotiate the contract of sale. Assuming all goes well, could occupy the new house some time in November.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. From 26 August until 7 September, the Nonaligned Movement met in Harare, Zimbabwe. Foreign ministry delegations held meetings during the first week and the heads of state met during the second. Harare Radio carried an excerpt of the speech by Foreign Minister Mangwende opening the foreign ministers' meeting and carried live the speeches by Prime Minister Mugabe and others during the first session of the heads of state meeting. Although the radio had announced further live coverage, none was carried, possibly because of the serious conflict among the participants, according to other media. Bureau kept an open watch on Harare Radio throughout the session and processed most of the speeches carried and a variety of news reports. The bureau remained open until 0200 local on the first night of the heads of state meeting, was somewhat late the remainder of the week, and staffed up for evening shifts on Saturdays and Sundays the first week and Saturdays the second, as the conference closed -- without the planned closing ceremony -- on Saturday, 7 September.
- 2. Although the South African press remains restricted, some willingness to report material which had generally been missing in the press since the second

state of emergency in June has been noted during the month. For example, SAPA has resumed carrying at least some reports citing sources in such opposition groups as the United Democratic Front and the End Conscription Campaign. Furthermore, a limited number of unrest reports citing other than official sources have been carried, although the government moved to halt this by reissuing restrictions on press coverage of the emergency. The result has been a slightly more liberalized press and a few more worthwhile items.

- 3. RSA State President P.W. Botha opened the National Party congress in Durban on 14 August in a speech which was carefully watched by observers. Although he said that the party was prepared to consider other reforms, he also said the West would have to deal with the current government and warned against attempts to meddle in RSA affairs. The bureau filed many reports on the speech from SAPA and remained open until 0430 local to clear the speech, which was mostly in Afrikaans.
- 4. On the 20th, a question-and-answer session by Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was carried on Harare Radio. Among other things, Mugabe reiterated his demand for Western sanctions against South Africa and criticized President Reagan and Prime Minister Thatcher. The session was fyied and texted for priority filing.

B. <u>Cruising</u>

Cruising surveys of Umtata Capital Radio, Harare Radio, Johannesburg Television, and Luanda Radio were done during the month. Black Cockerel, UNITA's radio, has been checked for several weeks and heard on a few occasions.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Pretoria political officer Tim Carney called to say goodbye as he was leaving post to return to Washington. He said he appreciated the "absolutely fantastic" service provided by the Bureau to the Embassy in Pretoria and the Consulate General in Cape Town.

2. Monitor departed 5 September on TDY to Headquarters to participate in the Foreign National Orientation Program.

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3. Monitor was married on 28 August to the former STAT STAT

4. New Deputy Chief and family arrived PCS on 2 September.

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Swaziland Bureau Production Report for AUGUST 1986

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